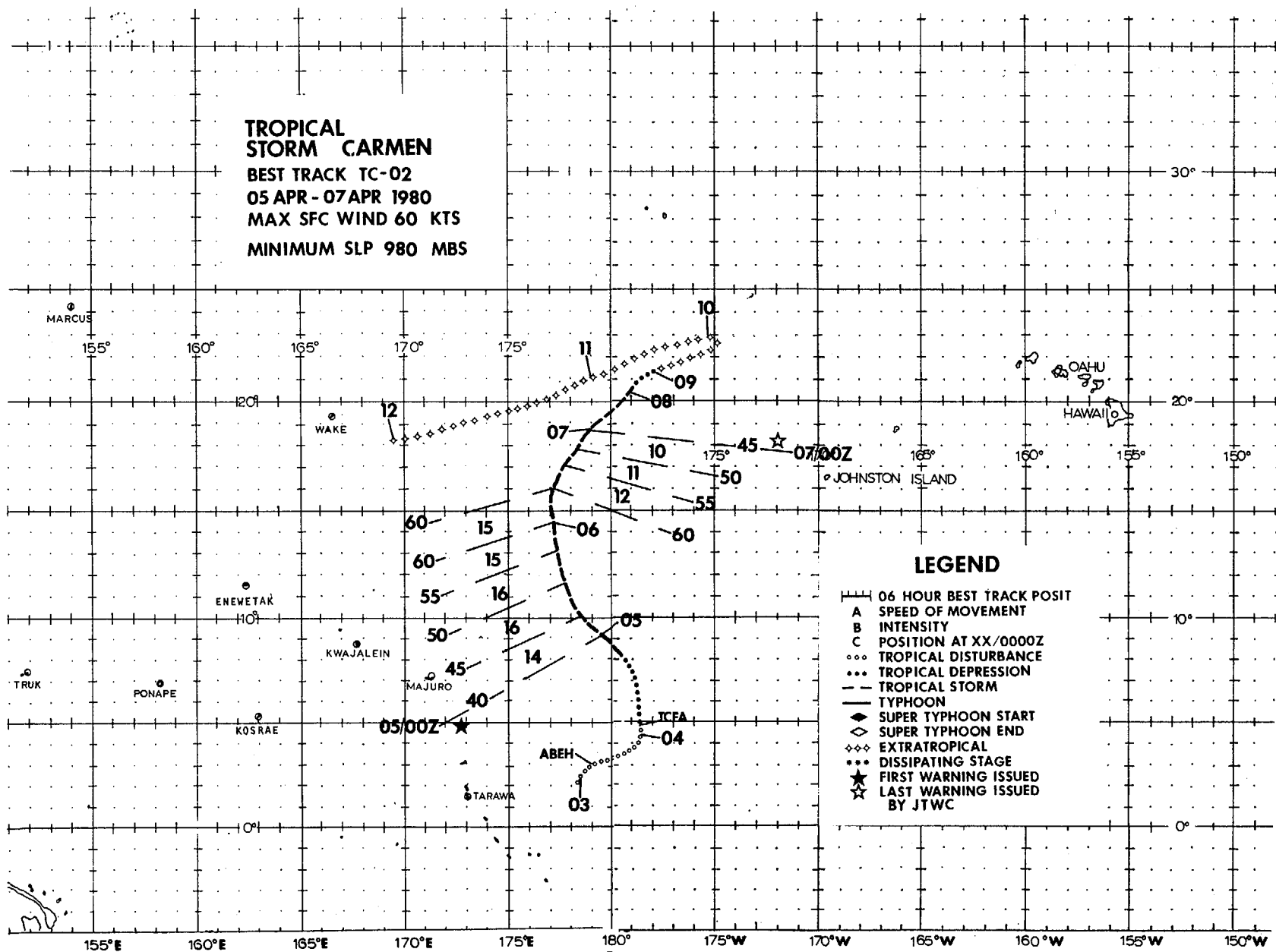


**TROPICAL
STORM CARMEN**
BEST TRACK TC-02
05 APR - 07 APR 1980
MAX SFC WIND 60 KTS
MINIMUM SLP 980 MBS



Tropical Storm Carmen, the second significant tropical cyclone of the season, might well have gone undetected if it had occurred prior to the advent of meteorological satellite surveillance. Carmen developed in and tracked through a very sparse synoptic data region near the dateline in early April 1980. Once organized, Carmen's closest point of approach to a reporting station (Majuro Atoll, WMO 91376) was 450 nm (833 km). During its entire life, Carmen was closely monitored by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) using polar-orbiting and geostationary satellites to confirm Carmen's existence.

Available satellite imagery and synoptic data indicated that Carmen developed in a relatively active near-equatorial trough (NET) during a period in which a parallel disturbance, TC 20-80 (Wally), was developing in the Southern Hemisphere. (The term parallel disturbances is also referred to as "double vortices".) Similar to many previous cases, most recently Typhoon Kim (1977) and Typhoon Lucy (1977) and their respective Southern Hemisphere cyclones, Carmen and TC 20-80 took nearly mirror-image tracks over open water. In this case, each cyclone moved towards its respective pole in response to a weakness in each hemisphere's sub-tropical ridge. Once organized, Carmen moved north-northwest and then, at the ridge axis, began its recurvature to the northeast. Similarly, TC 20-80 moved south-southwest until it began recurvature to the southeast at the ridge axis. Although TC 20-80 accelerated in its extratropical transition near 26 degrees south latitude, Carmen slowed as she moved eastward across the dateline. Several days later Carmen dissipated in the northeast trade wind flow south of Wake Island.

The disturbance which became Tropical Storm Carmen was first detected in satellite imagery at 0000Z on 2 April. By 021800Z, the area of convection had moved from the equator to near 02N 178E. At 030600Z, the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory (ABEH PGTW) discussed a surface circulation near 03N 179E. The major convection associated with the circulation continued to move northeast at 10 kt (19 km/hr) east of the dateline. The Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) monitors developing tropical cyclones east of the dateline and the responsibility for issuing tropical cyclone formation alerts (TCFA) in this region belongs to the Naval Western Oceanography Center (NWOC) at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. By 0200Z on 4 April, the organization of the disturbance had improved significantly and NWOC issued a TCFA for an area that straddled the dateline between 04N and 08N. At 050000Z, the developing cyclone moved west of the dateline, and based on the improved satellite signature, the first warning on TD02 was issued at that time. During the next 48 hours, Carmen intensified, reaching a peak intensity of 60 kt (31 m/sec) at approximately 060000Z. Figure 3-02-1 shows satellite imagery of Carmen at peak intensity. Carmen then gradually weakened as she approached the dateline for a third time

(second approach from the west). The last JTWC warning was issued at 070000Z and the CPHC issued its first warning at 070600Z. While east of the dateline, Carmen continued to weaken as her movement slowed to 5 kt (9 km/hr). The final warning was issued by CPHC at 090000Z with TD02 near 21.5N 178W.

Due to Carmen's location (near the dateline) and month of occurrence (April), JTWC forecasters had few viable forecasting aids to develop their warnings. Climatology and analog programs were non-existent for the area and season, and the steering model is unreliable south of 10N. Without the input of these valuable aids, the initial warning was based on sparse mid-level synoptic data and described a north-northwest track with recurvature near 17N. This basic track was maintained in subsequent JTWC warnings. Maintenance of this basic track through recurvature provided JTWC with 72-hour forecast errors (210 nm (389 km)) which were significantly lower than the 10-year average of 348 nm (644 km).

Intensity estimates and forecasts were based entirely on the Dvorak method for estimating tropical cyclone intensity (1975). The first series of Dvorak intensity estimates at 041954Z, 050000Z and 050233Z supported 35 kt (18 m/sec) maximum winds. However, upgrading to tropical storm status did not occur until the 051200Z warning. This delay is not unusual. Initial warnings tend to be conservative because satellite imagery of a developing tropical cyclone often appears more intense for a brief period before returning to a more "normal" signature for the early development stage. Indeed, the Dvorak method has a built in constraint which limits initial estimates to T1.5 (25 kt (13 m/sec)) or less. The initial Dvorak intensities received at JTWC were T2.5 (35 kt (18 m/sec)). In post-analysis, the higher estimates were supported with the trend showing that TD02 (Carmen) actually reached tropical storm strength at 041800Z, 6 hours prior to the first warning.

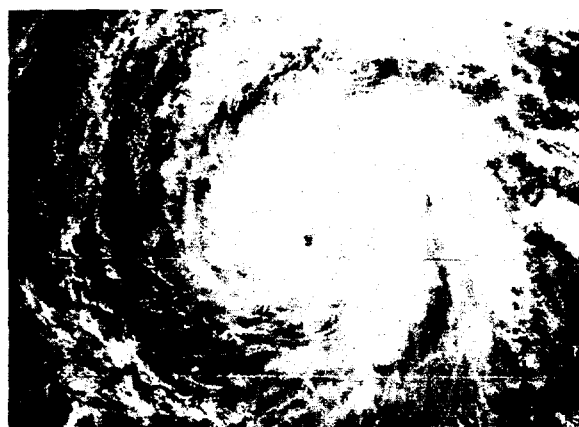


FIGURE 3-02-1. TS Carmen, near maximum intensity of 60 kt (31 m/sec), 05 April 1980, 2231Z. (DMSP imagery)